

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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DEPT PASS ALSO TO DHEW

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: WHO SWEL EPAP SA

SUBJECT: WHO - SAUDI REQUEST FOR US SUPPORT FOR DRAFT

RESOLUTION URGING STRONG MEASURES AGAINST TOBACCO SMOKING

1. TEXT FOLLOWS OF DRAFT RESOLUTION WHICH SAUDI ARABIAN DELEGATION HAS ASKED USDEL TO CO-SPONSOR. USDEL BELIEVES THAT IN LIGHT OF SECRETARY CALIFANO'S FIRM VIEWS ON SUBJECT, WHICH HE EXPRESSED WHILE HERE IN GENEVA AS HEAD OF USDEL AND WHICH WERE WIDELY REPORTED IN LOCAL PRESS, IT WOULD BE EMBARRASSING FOR US TO DECLINE TO CO-SPONSOR, OR AT LEAST TO SUPPORT. SAUDIS WOULD PROBABLY BE PREPARED TO ACCEPT LANGUAGE CHANGES TO OBTAIN OUR SUPPORT-CO-SPONSORSHIP. DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE NEEDED ASAP.

2. BEGIN TEXT: "HEALTH HAZARDS OF SMOKING
"THE THIRTY-FIRST WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY,

"RECALLING RESOLUTIONS EB45.R9, WHAT23.32, EB47.R42,
WHA24.48, EB53.R31 AND WHA29.55 CONCERNING THE HEALTH
HAZARDS OF TOBACCO-SMOKING AND WAYS TOWARDS ITS LIMITATION:

"RECOGNIZING THE INCREASING AND INDISPUTABLE SCIENTIFIC
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EVIDENCE SHOWING THAT TOBACCO-SMOKING IS A MAJOR CAUSE OF CHRONIC BRONCHITIS, EMPHYSEMA AND LUNG CANCER, AS WELL AS A MAJOR RISK FACTOR FOR MYOCARDIAL INFARCTION, CERTAIN PREGNANCY-RELATED AND NEONATAL DISORDERS, AND A NUMBER OF OTHER SERIOUS HEALTH PROBLEMS; AND THAT IT ALSO HAS HARMFUL EFFECTS ON THOSE WHO ARE INVOLUNTARILY EXPOSED TO TOBACCO SMOKE:

"SERIOUSLY CONCERNED AT THE ALARMING INCREASE IN PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION OF CIGARETTES DURING THE LAST TWO DECADES IN SOME OF THE COUNTRIES IN WHICH IT WAS PREVIOUSLY NOT WIDESPREAD, AND AT THE EXTENSIVE PROMOTIONAL DRIVE FOR THE SALE OF CIGARETTES BEING CARRIED OUT ON RADIO AND TELEVISION, IN NEWSPAPERS AND OTHER NEWS MEDIA WHICH IS INDUCING WOMEN AND YOUNG PEOPLE TO SMOKE TOBACCO;

"NOTING THAT FEW COUNTRIES HAVE SO FAR TAKEN EFFECTIVE, COMPREHENSIVE ACTION TO COMBAT SMOKING THROUGH EDUCATIONAL, RESTRICTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE MEASURES FOR THE CONTROL OF PUBLICITY AND ADVERTISEMENTS IN THE NEWS MEDIA, COMBINED WITH COHERENT TAXATION AND PRICE POLICIES FOR TOBACCO CULTIVATION AND CIGARETTE PRODUCTION;

"BELIEVING THAT WHO HAS AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN PROMOTING EFFECTIVE POLICIES AGAINST SMOKING, AS ENVISAGED IN THE SIXTH GENERAL PROGRAMME OF WORK COVERING THE PERIOD INCLUSIVE 1978-1983,

"1. URGES MEMBER STATES:

(1) TO ADOPT COMPREHENSIVE MEASURES TO CONTROL TOBACCO SMOKING BY PROVIDING FOR INCREASED TAXATION ON THE SALE OF CIGARETTES AND DISALLOWING PUBLICITY FOR PROMOTION OF SMOKING IN THE NEWS MEDIA, INCLUDING UNCLASSIFIED

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NEWSPAPERS, RADIO AND TELEVISION:

(2) TO STRENGTHEN HEALTH EDUCATION CONCERNING SMOKING AS PART OF GENERAL HEALTH EDUCATION, THROUGH CLOSE COLLABORATION AMONG HEALTH AND SCHOOL AUTHORITIES AND OTHER RELEVANT AGENCIES, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE DIFFERENT NEEDS OF THE VARIOUS TARGET GROUPS;

(3) TO PROTECT THE HEALTH OF NON-SMOKERS AND THEIR RIGHT ENJOY AN ATMOSPHERE UNPOLLUTED BY TOBACCO SMOKE;

"2. REQUESTS THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL:

(1) TO CONTINUE TO INTENSIFY WHO'S ACTIVITIES IN CONNECTION WITH CONTROL OF TOBACCO-SMOKING;

(2) TO COLLABORATE WITH MEMBER STATES, AS REQUIRED, IN THE FORMULATION, IMPLEMENTATION AND EVALUATION OF THEIR OWN PROGRAMMES TO COMBAT SMOKING;

(3) TO ASSIST MEMBER STATES UPON REQUEST IN DEVELOPING MEASURES FOR THE CONTROL OF PUBLICITY WITH REGARD TO SMOKING THROUGH THE NEWS MEDIA, ESPECIALLY

NEWSPAPERS, RADIO AND TELEVISION."

END TEXT. SORENSON

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